



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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More and more commuters looking into ridesharing

As the cost of gasoline increases, so does public interest in transportation alternatives. WisDOT oversees a Rideshare service (www.rideshare.wi.gov) that matches commuters who live and work in the southern half of Wisconsin with transportation options such as carpools, vanpools, bike buddies, park and ride lots, and public transit. Registrants enter their name, home and work location, and their daily schedule to learn about rideshare opportunities. The month of April has seen a nearly 50% increase in Rideshare registrants over the month of March achieving an 80% match rate.

Picking up the pieces after a tough winter

The harsh winter Wisconsin recently weathered has left behind many reminders including numerous roadway signs that fell victim to snowplows or vehicle slide-offs. WisDOT officials say it was a record season for downed signs and county highway crews will likely work into June to get them all replaced. WisDOT contracts with counties to handle routine maintenance along state highways including repairs to potholes, guard-rails and signage. Stop signs and other critical warning signs get top priority and often receive temporary repairs until they can be permanently re-installed.

More NEV's being seen on local roads

Neighbor Electric Vehicles or NEV's are becoming common sights in more and more Wisconsin communities. NEV's can operate only on local roads as approved by local ordinance, must be titled and registered through WisDOT's Division of Motor Vehicles, and be operated by a licensed driver. NEV's must also meet national standards for a "low speed vehicle" and must have: four wheels; a top speed of no more than 25 mph on a paved level surface; a gross vehicle weight of less than 3,000 pounds; and be self-propelled by electric power. More information on NEV's can be found on the WisDOT Web site at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/vehicles/title/nev.htm.

Marching into the record books

March ridership aboard Amtrak's Hiawatha Service totaled 62,399 passengers - the most to use the service in a single month ever - and a 30% increase over March of last year. The Hiawatha Service has now set monthly ridership records in 39 of the last 41 months. Through the first three months of this year, a total of 160,627 people have climbed aboard Hiawatha Service trains – an increase of over 22% from the same period in 2007. The Hiawatha Service provides seven daily round trips between Milwaukee and Chicago (six on Sundays) and boasts the best on-time performance of any Amtrak route in the nation.

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